1937

RECTOR'S REPORT

Convocation '37

On this, the forty-first annual Convocation of Loyola, I am very glad indeed to welcome tonight our faithful alumni and our loyal friends. I cannot help but pause for a moment to consider the vast changes that have been wrought in our report during the past four decades. It is a far cry indeed from the little group of students and professors that met some forty years ago in the first Loyola on the corner of Bleury & St.Catherine streets to the present student body of which any educator would be most pardonably proud. These two score years have witnessed the establishment on Drummond Street and the present still increasing and still developing institution in this west end of the city. May I be pardoned if I pause for a moment to pay tribute to the devotion and spirit of sacrifice of those former members of the staff and present friends of the school who have made this extraordinary development possible.

During the past scholastic year our Commonwealth has successfully passed through a great constitutional crisis and witnessed at its turn the glorious crowning of our sovereign George VI. Tonight, as we have already done, we again pledge ourselves in fealty to his royal person.

Rapidly reviewing the work of the past year we find few outstanding accomplishments, but in compensation we may discover much that is a source of greater satisfaction than any startling achievements. The routine work of the school, which is far more important than any spectacular achievement, has been carried on with perhaps greater success than ever before. The spirit of work and application has, if anything, improved though here again we must not rest content with past achievements. We look to a still greater and more intense application to study

greater and more intense application to study since our students begin to realize more and more the part that is reserved for them to play in the coming years of this critical period of our history.

We take this occasion to pay tribute to the loyal spirit which has animated the students of Loyola during the past year. There have been necessary decisions made and measures taken that have not always appealed to the merely natural viewpoint of the student body. Yet they have been ~~keen~~ men enough to realize the need of such measures and their unhesitating cooperation has made the work of the staff far more pleasant and easy than it might very well have been. May I say on the part of the staff of Loyola that we are proud of our students and consider them second to none in this country.

Among the actual activities of the students themselves we find an even still greater fervour than last year for the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin. The sodalists, particularly among the day students, have decidedly increased their numbers since last year. Their activities among the poor of the city, the prisoners and the sick, and their catechetical work with children have shown that Catholic action, so much desired by the Sovereign Pontiff, can very well be translated into deeds of lasting worth. The devotion to the Blessed Sacrament has been fostered and increased by the

reorganizing among the younger students of the Knights of the Blessed Sacrament and their response to an appeal to their loyalty to the King of Kings has been an outstanding feature in the religious activities of the year.

As in past years, Loyola has again come to the fore in debate and oratorical endeavour. For the fifth time in seventeen years we have won the Dominion Championship in the Inter-University Debating League. In thirteen of those seventeen years Loyola reached the final debate. The names of the winning debaters are: Paul Brennan, Jean Langlois, Thomas McGovern and Joseph Hart. We might add that in an oratorical contest open to the city of Montreal, Jean Sandfield Langlois won the Milton Hersey silver medal, while in the Junior section boys from Loyola won both the bronze and silver medals.

In the Montreal Debating League, Loyola's team went as far as the semi-finals and the Junior High School section brought the championship trophy home to Loyola for the third time in five years. .

In the athletic field Loyola continued to give a good account of itself, particularly in the domain of football. The Intermediate College Team while losing to a far superior group in the contest for the Dominion Championship, nevertheless secured first place in the Eastern section of the Dominion by a margin of more than 100 points.

The Loyola Contingent of the C.O.T.C. was inspected and highly praised by Col.Brown of the local Military Headquarters. The unit has this year developed along many lines which include the establishment of an officers' mess which functions most satisfactorily under the presidency of a former commanding officer Major Edgar T. Reynolds. Another feature is the building of a sand table for the study of tactics and strategy which is admittedly

the finest in the Dominion of Canada.Outstanding,however,the unit's activities was the Assault-at-Arms given this year by both College and High School. It included various intricate manoeuvres on the part of the unit,and specimens of drill by the Physical Training classes.All of these won the very highest possible praise from military experts of the city and the Dominion,We feel that a tribute of appreciation is rightly due to the retiring Commanding Officer, Lt.Colonel E.G.O'Brien,and to the Drill Instructor,Sgt.Major Cavan for their marvellous work in connection with the unit.

Another extra-curricular activity which was given a further impetus this year is the Dramatic Society.After two or three minor presentations,the students offered one of the most successful productions in the school's history,"The Private Secretary",which was particularly well received by all who witnessed it.

A word about our Alumni and their activities,which touch more directly upon the life of Loyola.The Loyola Alumni Extension courses, which are now conducted with the cooperation of the K. of C.,drew an attendance of approximately 200 students.These courses are developed by members of the Faculty and by former students of the College.This year has witnessed the establishment of an Employment Bureau for Loyola students and graduates,which is already producing the most gratifying results.

There remains one other point to bring to your attention.It is the question af a Drive for an Endowment Fund for Loyola College. Several months ago we were approached by numerous friends of the College who advocated a Drive as the only means whereby Loyola might hope to continue its work as an outstanding English Catholic school in the Province of Quebec.Somewhat reluctantly we agreed as to the necessity of such a measure.While it is more than 20 years since Loyola last appealed for assistance,the school has developed

notwithstanding in a most consoling manner. Nevertheless, it remains true that it is practically impossible for Loyola to continue its stand and to improve its position in the scholastic world without some special assistance. It is true that we have splendid buildings and much in the way of libraries and laboratory equipment, but so much of all this has not been paid for. The financial burden which we are obliged to carry is so great and penalizes to such an extent all that we would wish to do for our students that only some extraordinary assistance will enable the staff of Loyola to competently continue the work to which they have devoted their lives.

So it is that we find ourselves forced, despite all our reluctance, but still with great confidence, to turn to our friends for the help which we need for the successful carrying out of our work, which is their work also, and we trust God's work, in this portion of His far-flung vineyard. We have therefore concluded that a drive is necessary and will take place during or about the month of February of the coming year of 1938.

One last word now, to those whose night this is in a most special manner. Need I say that our sincerest good wishes and prayers accompany them as they go forth to fresh fields of endeavour. I would have them remember that they leave us with a character, an imprint, which neither the years ~~which~~ that may come nor the vicissitudes of life that may await them, can ever efface. You are students of Loyola. It is for you to carry on, to realize in a practical manner, in the great world which awaits you the ideals we have tried to implant in your hearts. The parting has its painful side, for us at least, and I think perhaps for you as well. But remember this, we claim you as our own, and may you claim us as yours. While you go forth to new honours, to fresh achievements, we shall be here ready to receive you at any time, at any hour and to give you any assistance, any encouragement which with God's help we can give. Go forth and fear not and may God bless you.